

St. Patrick's Ireland - George III, King

AN
AUTHENTIC COPY

OF THE

BILL

FOR THE

BETTER SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE

OF THE

POOR,

PRESENTED TO THE

HOUSE OF COMMONS

BY

The Right Honourable WILLIAM PITT,

With the Amendments made in the Committee.

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(AS AMENDED BY THE COMMITTEE)

FOR THE BETTER

SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE POOR.

WHEREAS it is become necessary that provision should be made for amending and enforcing the laws for the relief, instruction, and employment of the poor; in order, as far as may be, to improve their condition, and to ensure a more comfortable maintenance and support to them and their families, to encourage the general habits of industry and good order, and thereby gradually to reduce the excessive amount of the poor rates:

May it therefore please Your Majesty,

That it may be enacted; and be it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, That from and after the time herein appointed for the commencement of this act, any father entitled to the benefit thereof, according to the provisions hereinafter mentioned, and having more than two children, part of his family, and unable to maintain themselves; and any widow, being so entitled and having more than one such child, shall have such weekly allowances from the parish or parishes, to be united by virtue of this act, where he or she shall reside, in respect of any such child or children of such father beyond the number of two, and in respect of any such child or children of such widow beyond the number of one, to such amount, not less than one shilling for each such child, as shall be ordered and directed in conformity to the provisions of this act; and that such allowances so made shall continue, in respect of such child or children above the number of two and one, respectively, as aforesaid, until such child or children in respect of whom such allowances are made, can and shall maintain themselves by their labour, if such child or children shall so long remain part of their father's and mother's family as aforesaid.

And be it further enacted, That if any poor person entitled to the benefit of this act, in any parish or parishes to be united by virtue of

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this act, not able to earn the full rate or wages usually given in such parish or parishes united therewith, shall contract and agree to work at any inferior rate or wages, which wages shall not be sufficient for the maintenance and support of such poor person, singly or in conjunction with his or her family, it shall and may be lawful to make up such deficiency (regard being had to the earnings of such family, and to the allowance, if any, then payable to him, her, or them, from any parochial fund which may be established by virtue of this act in such parish) out of the rates made for the relief of the poor, without compelling such poor person to be employed in any manner under the authority of this act: Provided always, That the parish so advancing any money to any persons not having any lawful settlement therein, shall be reimbursed the same, in the manner and in the cases specified in the schedule hereunto annexed.

And be it further enacted, That if it shall appear that any person entitled to the benefit of this act, and wanting relief for him or herself, or his or her family, would be enabled, by the advance of money for purchasing a cow or other animal yielding profit, to maintain him or herself, and his or her family, without farther parochial relief, it shall be lawful to order the payment of such money in advance as will be necessary for the purchase of such cow or other animal, out of the rates made for the relief of the poor, in the manner and according to the form No. in the schedule hereunto annexed, and subject to the conditions therein directed to be expressed in such order.

And be it further enacted, That no person shall be excluded from parochial relief, or any of the benefits of this act, on account of the possession of any tenement or cottage, with its appurtenances, whatever may be his or her estate or interest therein, or on account of any other visible property, not exceeding in the whole the value of thirty pounds, which shall consist either of tools or implements of trade, or household furniture, wearing apparel, or other necessities suitable to the condition of such poor person; but that every person in the situation and condition before mentioned, and not able from other circumstances, to maintain him or herself, or his or her family, shall be entitled to all the benefits of this act, as fully and effectually as if such person was not possessed of such property as aforesaid.

And be it further enacted, That no poor person whatever shall be liable to be removed from the parish in which he or she shall inhabit, as actually chargeable by reason of any relief or allowance granted to such person under the authority of this act, on account of any temporary disability or sickness of such person, or of any of his or her family, or on account of the number of his or her children in respect of whom he or she shall be entitled to or shall receive any allowance by virtue of this act.

Provided always, and be it further enacted, That every person residing as aforesaid in any parish united with any other parish or parishes, and acquiring a settlement by virtue of this act, shall be deemed to have acquired a settlement in such united parishes collectively, and not in the parish singly wherein he or she shall so have resided.

Provided always, and be it further enacted, That no person whose settlement shall not be in the parish, or in one of the parishes united by virtue of this act, in which he or she shall reside, shall be entitled

to any relief from such parish or united parishes, except in the cases and in the manner herein specified.

And whereas for the encouragement of frugal industry, and for the securing a competent provision in cases of sickness, infirmity, and old age, it may be expedient to establish a parochial fund, which may arise, partly from subscriptions or voluntary contributions and benefactions, and partly from an aid to be given out of the rates for the relief of the poor, whereby the persons subscribing may become entitled to greater allowances than can be secured to them by such savings as may be expected to be made by them out of their own earnings; be it further enacted, That from and after the time appointed for the commencement of this act, there shall be established, in or for every parish or parishes to be united by virtue of this act, a fund, to be called "The Parochial Fund for the Relief of Sick, Infirm, and aged Subscribers," for the purpose of raising from time to time, by subscriptions, or by voluntary contributions and benefactions, and by the rates raised for the relief of the poor, a sufficient stock for the relief and maintenance of all and every the subscribers thereto in sickness, infirmity, and old age, by certain allowances, encreasing in proportion to the periods for or in respect of which they shall have subscribed; and that every such parochial fund shall be established by order of two justices according to the form, No. in the schedule hereunto annexed, and shall be managed according to the rules marked () in the said schedule, or by such rules as shall from time to time be made for the better management of the same under the authority of this act; and subject to the fines prescribed by or by virtue of this act; and that every person residing in any parish shall be entitled to become a subscriber to the parochial fund established in or for such parish or united parishes, on the conditions specified in the said rules, marked (), and according to the tables in the schedule hereunto annexed; and that every person so subscribing, and continuing the due payment of his or her subscription according to the said rules, although not settled in any parish in or for which such fund is established, shall be deemed entitled to the benefits and allowances specified in the said rules, as if such person had his or her lawful settlement in any such parish.

And whereas it may be expedient that the allowances to be given to subscribers to any parochial fund established under this act, should be extended, on the same beneficial terms, to the members of friendly societies herein mentioned, who shall be desirous of entitling themselves, by a moderate subscription, to such permanent allowances, over and above the allowances to which they respectively may be entitled by the rules of such friendly societies; be it further enacted, That every person who shall be a member of any friendly society, established under an act, passed in the thirty-third year of the reign of his present Majesty, intituled, "An Act for the Encouragement and Relief of Friendly Societies," and who shall be desirous of subscribing to any parochial fund established under this act, for the purpose of entitling him or herself to such of the permanent benefits of the said fund as are to be given to aged or infirm subscribers, according to the periods for or in respect of which they shall have subscribed, and not in cases of temporary sickness or infirmity, shall, on delivering a certificate of his

being a member of such society to the persons appointed to the management of the poor in or for the parish or parishes where such fund shall be established, signed by any two of the stewards or officers of such society, certifying the same, be admitted a subscriber for such distinct and separate purpose to the said parochial fund, at the reduced rates and on the conditions specified in the said rules, and according to the tables marked () in the schedule hereunto annexed, and shall be entitled to the benefits and allowances specified in the table marked () in the said schedule.

And whereas by an act passed in the forty-third year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, intituled, "An act for the relief of the Poor," and divers subsequent statutes of this realm, sundry provisions have been made for the purposes of setting the poor to work, and of providing a stock of materials: And whereas with a view as well to the diminution of the burthen of the poor, as for the encouragement of useful industry, it is highly important that the said provisions should be farther enforced, and that other provisions should be made for the instruction and employment of children in schools of industry, to be established by virtue of this act in such places where a due superintendence of the same shall be provided: Be it further enacted, That the justices of the peace acting in and for any county within that part of Great Britain called England, and assembled at the general quarter sessions of the peace to be holden for such county next after the feast day of Saint Michael the Archangel, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-seven, shall divide the county into such and so many districts as shall appear to them to be most expedient for the effectual execution of this act, and shall nominate and appoint, in every such district, two justices at the least acting in and for such county, and residing in or near such district, to be justices in each district, and to hold the petty sessions required to be holden from time to time for the purposes of this act; and that the justices so appointed, or from time to time to be so appointed to act in any district in the execution of this act, shall be the justices in the district in this act mentioned; and they, and no other justices, shall have authority to act in the said district, in any matter relating to the execution of any of the powers given to the justices in the district by this act: Provided always, that where two such justices acting in and for any county, and residing as aforesaid, cannot be appointed for each such district, it shall be lawful for the said justices so assembled at the quarter sessions as aforesaid, to appoint any justice or justices acting for the county, to act for two or more such districts within the same county as shall be deemed expedient; so that the place or places of residence of such justice or justices so to be appointed, shall be in or near to the districts wherein he or they shall be so appointed to act; Provided also, that the justices assembled at any subsequent general or quarter sessions may, upon sufficient cause shewn, alter the limits of any district or districts before fixed, and may also renew or alter the appointment of justices made in pursuance of this act, in any district so fixed, or so authorized to be fixed, as aforesaid.

And in order to provide for the more effectual controul of the persons appointed to the management of the poor under this act, and also of persons having the management of the poor in places where the provisions of this act, as to the employment and instruction of the poor in

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Schools of industry, shall not be adopted: Be it further enacted, That every member of either House of Parliament, or of His Majesty's Privy Council, and residing or being in any county, and all persons named in the commission of the peace for such county, or in any act of parliament to be a commissioner of the land tax in or for such county, and all persons in holy orders having any ecclesiastical jurisdiction in such county, shall be visitors of the poor in all and every the districts in such county; and that any rector, vicar, or curate for the time being, of any rectory, vicarage, or chapelry within any district, in such county, and residing in such district; and the several persons to be appointed as hereinafter directed, and residing in such district, shall also be visitors of the poor therein; and the justices in any district to be appointed as aforesaid, are hereby required, as soon as conveniently may be after the tenth day of July one thousand seven hundred and ninety-seven (and also from time to time whenever there shall be occasion) to make new appointments to meet in their district, to consider of proper persons resident therein, and qualified as hereinafter mentioned, to be nominated and constituted, together with the said persons before described, to the office of visitor of the poor in such districts, and to appoint such and so many of the said persons as they the said justices shall deem proper and necessary, to be appointed to the office of visitor; and that all and every person and persons inhabiting in any parish within any district, and being rated and paying to the relief of the poor of the said parish, and having any freehold, copyhold, or customary estate for life or lives, or any greater estate therein, or for a term of years determinable on one or more life or lives of the value of fifty pounds per annum within the said district; or occupying messuages, lands, or tenements, within the said district, of and rated and assessed at the value of one hundred and fifty pounds per annum or upwards, shall be eligible to such office of visitor; and three or more of the said persons so named or to be appointed visitors, one whereof shall be a justice in the district, shall serve the office of visitor in rotation, in such order and for such time, as shall be from time to time agreed upon, and which order of rotation they are hereby required from time to time to settle between them as they shall see fit; any two of whom being in rotation shall be capable to act in any matter not otherwise directed by this act: Provided always, that the said persons so from time to time to be appointed visitors by the said justices, and assenting unto such appointment, shall meet at such place within the district, and at such time, not later than fourteen-days from the day of their appointment, as the justices of the peace in the district at the time of such appointment shall fix, in order to qualify themselves for the said office; and every such person so appointed shall, if required so to do by any justice of the peace in the district there present, produce in writing a statement of his qualification, setting forth of what it consists and where situate, and shall verify the same on his oath or solemn affirmation before the said justice of the peace, before such person shall act in the said office of visitor.

And be it further enacted, That whenever the justices, assembled at any quarter sessions to be holden for any county, shall be of opinion that the number of persons who have then accepted the office of visitor within any district of such county, is sufficient to carry into effect

the provisions of this act, which concern any of the duties appertaining to the said office of visitor according to the true intent thereof, it shall be lawful for the said justices to make order therein according to the form No. in the schedule hereunto annexed; which order shall be executed by the respective persons to whom the same shall be directed, without delay, according to the true intent of the same, and of the rules marked No. in the said schedule.

And be it further enacted, That upon notice of such last mentioned order, it shall be lawful for the parishioners rated and paying the rates made for the relief of the poor of any parish, at any public meeting assembled for that purpose, upon notice thereof first given in the manner prescribed in the said schedule, or the major part of such of them as shall be there assembled (such major part being also rated in the then last rate made for the relief of the poor of the said parish in a sum greater than the sum charged in the said rate on the rest of the parishioners so assembled) to consent to unite themselves with any other parish or parishes in the establishment of any school or schools of industry, for any of the purposes of this act; and to enter into an agreement with such other parish or parishes for that purpose, in the form and according to the directions contained in No. in the schedule hereunto annexed; and in case no such agreement shall be entered into by any parish, and approved in manner therein directed, then every such parish shall be bound singly to maintain a school or schools of industry, according to the regulations contained in the said schedule, so long as such parish shall remain not united with any other parish or parishes, according to the provisions of this act.

And be it further enacted, That the overseers of the poor of any such parish, or the persons to be appointed to the management of the poor of any parish or parishes to be united by virtue of this act, after the receipt of such order of justices as aforesaid, shall, in the manner and under the authority hereby limited and prescribed, hire, purchase, or build, a house or houses, for the purpose of establishing a school or schools of industry in and for the same parish or in any parish united therewith by virtue of this act, and for the said united parishes, towards carrying into execution the purposes of this act.

And be it further enacted, That for the regulation of such school or schools of industry as shall be established by virtue of this act for instructing children or poor persons in work, and employing any or all poor persons who shall want relief in the same parish, and who cannot conveniently work at home, either from the nature of the work to be done, or other circumstances, and also for such other purposes as shall be directed under the provisions of this act, and for the more effectual instruction, employment, and relief of such poor persons, there shall, within the time and in the manner hereinafter limited and prescribed, be appointed for every parish united by virtue of this act with any other parish or parishes, one person, to be warden of the poor; and the persons so appointed shall have the management of the poor persons of such united parishes; and one of them shall be appointed to the care and management of the school or schools of industry in the said united parishes, and of the poor receiving employment in or from the same, who shall be called "The manager of the school of industry;" and that for every parish not united as aforesaid, there shall also be appointed

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one warden, who shall be the manager of the school or schools of industry of the said parish, and who, together with the overseers of the poor of the same parish; shall have the management of the poor persons of such parish; or where no warden of the poor shall be appointed in any such parish not united as aforesaid under the provisions of this act, then the said overseers shall execute the said office; and in such case, one of them shall be appointed to be manager of the school or schools of industry of the said parish.

And be it further enacted, That whenever any school or schools of industry shall be established in any united parishes, or single parish, in pursuance of this act, all persons wanting relief may be instructed and employed either in such school or schools of industry, or at their respective homes, in such work as shall have been agreed upon or fixed in the manner herein provided; and the manager of the school of industry, or his assistant, appointed under this act, shall, from time to time, with the consent of two justices of the peace in the district, take order for setting to work, and maintaining, the said persons, in the manner herein directed; and every person who shall be employed in the manner authorized by this act, shall execute, according to the best of his or her ability, such lawful and reasonable work as shall be required of him or her, conformably to the rules established by virtue of this act, and subject to the control herein provided.

And be it further enacted, That the persons appointed to the management of the poor of any parish, or united parishes, shall, from time to time, provide a proper stock of hemp, flax, silk, thread, cotton, wool, iron, leather, or other materials, and also proper tools and implements, for the employment of the poor; and it shall be lawful for the said parish or united parishes, and for the poor thereof, and the person or persons appointed to the management of the said poor, respectively, to carry on any trades, mysteries, or occupations, under this act, within any school or schools of industry established by virtue of this act, and the buildings thereunto belonging, or at the homes or habitations of the poor persons of such respective parishes, any law, usage, or custom to the contrary notwithstanding; and that any person who shall be lawfully settled in any parish where he or she shall reside, or in any parish united therewith, and also any person entitled to all the benefits of this act, who shall be willing to be employed in any trade, mystery, or occupation carried on in the school or schools of industry there, shall, for themselves respectively, and such of their respective families who are able and willing to work, be entitled to be employed in such school or schools of industry, and to be instructed in any such trade, mystery, occupation, or employment, there carried on, as shall be suited to his, her, or their strength or ability, at such wages or recompence as shall be settled and established to be paid or made for the work done or performed by him, her, or them, in such school or schools of industry, according to the directions of this act.

And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for two justices in the district, from time to time, to call for an account of the materials provided for the employment of the poor in the respective parishes in their district, and the manner in which the same has been applied and accounted for, and from time to time, as occasion shall re-

quire, to make order for supplying a competent stock thereof for the purposes aforesaid; and in case of the neglect so to do, of any person whose duty it shall be to provide such stock for the space of ten days after any such order made, it shall be lawful for any two justices in the district, to direct that the person or persons whose duty it shall be, do provide such materials at his, her, or their expence; and in default of the payment of the charge and costs of such materials upon demand, it shall be lawful for such justices to levy the same, and the costs attending the recovery thereof, by distress and sale of the goods and chattels of any person or persons so making default, to the use of the poor of the same parishes respectively.

And be it further enacted, That if the wages which shall be paid or payable to any poor person, residing as aforesaid, for his or her labour in any school of industry, or in respect of any employment carried on, by virtue of this act, by any parish or united parishes, shall be insufficient for the support and maintenance of such poor person, and his or her family (regard being always had to the earnings of such family, or of such part thereof who shall be able to work, and to the allowance (if any) to which he, she, or they, shall then be entitled from any parochial fund) it shall be lawful for the persons appointed to the management of the poor of such parish or united parishes, in case the person wanting relief shall be a person entitled to the benefit of this act, with the approbation and by the order of any justice in the district, to grant such relief to such poor person, or his or her family, as in the judgment of such justice shall, over and above the earnings of and allowances to such person, and his or her family, be necessary for their support and maintenance, according to the circumstances of each case.

Provided always, and be it further enacted, That from and after the time appointed for the commencement of this act, every person entitled to the benefit of this act, in any parish, shall (unless he or she will undertake diligently to instruct and employ, and can and shall diligently instruct and employ his or her child or children at home, or in such business as the persons appointed to the management of the poor of such parish, or the manager of the school or schools of industry established therein, shall from time to time direct, and which such persons respectively are hereby authorized to direct to be done in conformity to the provisions of this act) permit all of his or her children, being respectively of the age of five years or upwards, upon request made in pursuance of this act, to be sent into the school or schools of industry established in or for any parish or united parishes under this act; and such child or children shall be received into such school or schools of industry, to be instructed and employed in such work as shall be suited to the age and strength of such child or children, and not dangerous or prejudicial to the health of such child or children; and that the earnings of every such child, in respect of whom any allowance shall be directed to be paid as aforesaid (except such part thereof as may be allowed to the parent or parents of any child or children who shall be industrious, and conform to the rules established by or in pursuance of this act, as hereinafter is directed) shall, during the continuance of the same, go in aid of the fund for the support of the said school or schools of industry; and that any child or children,

whose parent or parents is or are not able to maintain them, and in respect of whom no such allowance shall be paid or payable by virtue of this act, may be received into such school of industry, to be there instructed and employed in such work or employment as shall be suited to such child or children, as before directed, or under such instruction; and under such terms and conditions, or at such rate or wages, as shall be settled in pursuance of this act; and the earnings of such last-mentioned child or children (except such part thereof as shall be allowed as aforesaid) shall go in aid of the fund for the support of such school or schools of industry.

And be it further enacted, That no poor person, who shall refuse any work offered to him or her under the authority of this act, which he or she is able to execute, or to receive instructions for executing such work, or who shall not, on request made according to the directions of this act, permit all or any of his or her family, who are capable of working, or of being instructed to work, and cannot otherwise support themselves, to be employed under the authority of this act, shall be entitled to any relief from any parish or united parishes.

And be it further enacted, That every person residing in any parish under the authority of this act, who is able and willing to be employed, in any service or work, at the rates and prices usually paid in the parish where such person shall reside, or in any parish united therewith, may, when out of employ, apply for employment from the persons appointed to the management of the poor of the said parish or united parishes; and it shall be lawful for the said persons, or any of them respectively, to cause such person to be employed in the school of industry, or at the home of such person, in such employment as shall be carried on under the authority of this act; and such person shall be entitled to the usual rate of wages for the work done by him or her in such school of industry; and if any such person, after application for employment as aforesaid, refusing to be employed in the manner before-mentioned, or deserting his or her work or employment, shall be subject to such pains and penalties as persons hiring themselves in particular work, are liable to for not doing, or for deserting the same.

And be it further enacted, That every child who shall at any time have received employment by virtue of this act, and shall obtain a certificate of his or her good behaviour, during the time of such employment, according to the form No. in the schedule hereunto annexed, shall be entitled to be put out as apprentices, or hired servants, in the manner, and with such advantages, as are specified in the forms No. and No. in the schedule hereunto annexed, or to that or the like effect.

And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the parent or parents of any poor child or children, at any time before such child or children shall have attained, if male, the age of fourteen years, or if female, the age of twelve years, or afterwards, if they shall continue to be so employed, to hire out his, her, or their child or children, notwithstanding such employment in such school or schools of industry, at such reasonable wages as shall be adequate to the labour of such child or children, during the time of hay and corn harvest, for any space of time not exceeding six successive weeks in each year; or to take such child or children to be at home with him, her, or them, to

be employed by him, her, or them, during the said harvests, for such time as aforesaid : and also for any of the said poor, employed in such school or schools of industry, above such ages respectively, at any time of the year, to hire out themselves, either to the surveyor or surveyors of the highways within the parishes to which they shall respectively belong, or to any reputable person or persons in such parishes respectively willing to employ such poor, for such sum and sums of money, and for such time and times, as the said person or persons appointed to the management of the poor of such parish or united parishes, and the person or persons hiring such poor, shall agree and settle ; and the poor children and other poor so hired out, shall do and perform the work and labour stipulated and agreed to be done, to the best of their power ; and after such work shall be completed and finished, shall, without delay, return with their working implements and apparel wherewith he, she, or they went out to work, if the same shall have been furnished at the expence of any parish or united parishes (allowance being made for reasonable use or wear thereof) to the said school or schools of industry, or in default thereof shall be subject and liable to such penalties and punishments as persons hiring themselves to any particular work are liable to for not doing or deserting the same, or for purloining the goods of the said parish or united parishes.

And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful to and for the visitors of the district, with the assent of the justices in the district, or any two of them, from time to time, upon application made to them for that purpose, to alter, regulate, and appoint the rate of wages and allowances to be paid or made to the poor employed in such school or schools of industry, or at their own homes, in any trade or manufacture in pursuance of this act ; and which rate of wages and allowances shall be regulated by the piece, according to the quality thereof, and not by time or hours of work, and shall be in money only ; and the said justices shall, within the space of fourteen days next after the making any such order, cause the same to be printed, published, and made known, in such manner as to them shall seem meet, at the expence of the county where such publication shall be made ; and all persons whatever supplying, or contracting to supply, any school or schools of industry with materials for setting the poor to work under the direction of this act, shall pay for the work so done in money, according to the rate established by the consent of the justices as aforesaid, and are hereby required strictly to observe the orders of the said justices, as well in making any such contract, as in performing the same ; and the justices for the district where any cause of complaint shall have arisen, by reason of any abatement in the rate of wages so allowed being made or insisted upon, and they, or any two or more of them, upon complaint being exhibited to them, shall have power to rescind or make void any contract entered into contrary to, or to enforce any contract made in pursuance of, this act ; and every person or persons offending herein, by payment of lesser wages than the wages allowed by the justices, and being thereof convicted before any two justices in the district where the offence was committed, either by confession of the party, or by the oath or affirmation of one or more credible witness or witnesses, shall forfeit and pay any sum not exceeding fifty pounds, nor less than

ten pounds, to be levied by distress and sale of the offenders goods and chattels, by warrant of such justices, as other penalties may be levied by this act.

And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the justices assembled at any general or quarter sessions of the peace, or at any adjournment thereof, if in their discretion they shall think fit, to make order for the building, purchasing, or hiring of such and so many houses, conveniently situated within the county and jurisdiction of the said respective justices, for the purpose of warehouses for the safe deposit of a stock of flax, hemp, cotton, silk, thread, wool, iron, leather, or other materials, which may be necessary to be purchased or collected for the supply of the several schools of industry, or of the poor employed in or by the respective parishes, within the same county or district, and of such nature or quality, as in the judgment of the said justices shall be most fitted to the circumstances of such county or district, and to the skill and ability of the poor therein; and also to appoint a warehouse keeper or warehouse keepers to superintend the same, and deliver out from time to time any of such articles for the use and employment of the poor, as the same are required, and to keep an account of the receipts and disbursements made in respect thereof, in such manner as by the said justices shall from time to time be directed; and also to make like order, if they shall think fit, for the purchasing, building, or hiring of such and so many houses, for the purpose of workhouses, as may be necessary for combing, sorting, dressing, or otherwise preparing the raw materials, and making the same fit for setting the poor to work thereon, according to their respective capacities, and to appoint proper and skilful workmen and servants to perform the same work, at a rate or wages to be from time to time fixed and allowed by the said justices; and when the said articles shall have been so worked by the poor, according to their respective capacities, then such, or other workmen and servants, shall receive the same again, from the respective parishes working the same, at such rate or wages to be paid to such parishes for the work and labour of their poor, as the justices so assembled shall have settled, in order that the same, or so much thereof as shall be necessary, may be woven, made, or manufactured, into such sorts and kinds of goods, and utensils and wearing apparel, as shall be suitable for the poor of the respective parishes aforesaid, and so that the same may be sold to them, or for their use, at the most reasonable prices, and which shall from time to time be settled by the said justices assembled at the general or quarter sessions of the peace for the county where such justices shall act; and the remainder of such articles may be manufactured to the best advantage, or may be sold for the best prices that can be gotten for the same; or that when the said articles shall be so worked by the poor, according to their respective capacities, the same may be sold by the respective parishes setting such poor to work, or by the poor persons themselves, if the nature of the provisions for the establishment of such schools of industry, as shall have been agreed upon by the respective parishes, according to the regulations and directions herein mentioned, shall allow of the same; or it shall be lawful for the said justices assembled at any such general or quarter sessions, to contract with any person or persons, not being concerned in or about the management or employment of the poor as aforesaid,

for setting up any warehouse or warehouses, in such manner, and at such place or places within the said county, as the said justices shall think proper, and for providing and supplying the like materials for setting the poor to work, at such rates and prices as shall be settled by the said justices, and for manufacturing the same, when worked by the poor, into the like sorts and kinds of goods, or wearing apparel, for their use, as aforesaid, and for giving or paying to such contractor or contractors such allowance, as to the said justices shall seem expedient or necessary; all which expences and allowances shall be paid from time to time out of the monies raised or to be raised by the rate called the county rate, and by virtue of the orders of the justices at such general or quarter sessions.

And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for any person or persons willing to contribute towards the building or purchasing of any house or houses, for the purpose of establishing any school or schools of industry therein, or the purchasing a sufficient stock of materials and implements to set the poor to work, to pay to the overseers of the poor of any parish, any sum or sums of money, by way of subscription or benefaction, for that purpose; and all sums of money so paid, shall be applied to the use for which the same shall be subscribed; and the overseers receiving the same, shall be accountable, in like manner as they are hereby or otherwise by law made accountable for the rates raised for the relief of the poor, and shall keep their accounts of the same in like manner.

And be it further enacted, That in every case where the sum of money wanting to defray the expences of building or purchasing any house or houses for the establishing of a school or schools of industry in any parish, or for any parishes agreeing to unite, and of fitting up and furnishing the same, and of providing, in the first instance, a sufficient stock to set the poor on work, or the proportion thereof of any parish, to be defrayed by a rate as aforesaid, shall exceed the sum of one hundred pounds, it shall be lawful for the overseers of the poor of such parish to borrow the same at interest, and secure such money by a charge on the poor's rates of such parish, in sums not exceeding fifty pounds each, for the greater ease in discharging the same, in the form No. contained in the schedule hereunto annexed, or to that or the like effect; which charge shall continue upon the said rates until the money so borrowed, and all interest for the same, shall be fully paid and satisfied; and the said overseers, and their successors, shall duly pay the interest; and if the principal be recalled, the same may be borrowed of some other person or persons, and secured by an assignment of the security before given, indorsed on the back thereof, in the form No. in the schedule hereunto annexed.

And be it further enacted, That the persons appointed to the management of the poor of any parish or parishes united as aforesaid, for the time being, shall, and they are hereby authorized, by such consent and direction, to hire or to purchase, either upon the consideration of a sum or sums of money to be in hand paid, or under certain ground or chief rents to be payable thereout, any land, not exceeding such quantity as shall be deemed sufficient for the purpose, with or without all or any of the buildings that may be thereon, with the hereditaments and appurtenances thereto belonging, situate within such parish, or

one of the united parishes; and that such conveyance, demise, or assignment thereof, may be made, as is therein also specified; and from time to time, with the like consent, to pull down, alter, repair, and finish, any buildings that may be standing on the same, for the better receiving and employing the poor of the said respective parishes; or to erect and build thereon one or more house or houses, for the like purposes, upon a plan to be approved of in like manner; and to provide furniture for the same, and all other materials and things whatever, for putting this act in execution; and the said persons appointed to the management of the poor for the time being, shall, by and out of the monies to be raised for the support of the said school or schools of industry, and for the relief of the poor employed therein, or otherwise, under the authority and by virtue of this act, pay and satisfy the purchase money or rent for the same, and all necessary charges relating thereunto, and to the employment of the said poor therein, or under the authority of this act; and also all monies which shall be justly due to the artificers, workmen, and others, employed in and about erecting, altering, repairing, or finishing the said house or houses, and in and about all other matters and things concerning the same.

Provided always, and be it further enacted, That all the houses, lands, tenements, and hereditaments to be purchased or hired under the authority of this act, and all buildings hereafter to be built thereon, so long as the same shall remain applicable to the purposes hereby directed or intended, or any of them, shall be free from all parochial and county rates, levies, and assessments whatever, and also from any further assessment in respect of any parliamentary taxes; except such proportion of the said taxes as are now imposed thereon, or to which the said houses, lands, tenements, and hereditaments are now liable, and to such amount as they shall be assessed at when they shall be first taken and applied for the purposes hereby declared and allowed.

And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for all bodies politic, corporate or collegiate, aggregate or sole, trustees and feoffees in trust, husbands, committees of lunatics and of idiots, executors, administrators, guardians for infants, and other trustees, not only for and on behalf of themselves, their heirs and successors, but also for and on behalf of their cestuique trusts, whether infants or issue unborn, lunatics, idiots, femmes covert, or other persons whomsoever, and to and for all femmes covert, who are or shall be seised or interested in their own rights, and to and for all and every person and persons whomsoever, who are or shall be seised, possessed of, or interested in, any lands, tenements, or hereditaments, situate within any parish wherein a school or schools of industry is or are intended to be established, to contract for, sell, and convey, or lease the same, or any part thereof, in manner aforesaid, unto the respective persons before named, their successors and assigns, for the uses and purposes of this act; and that all contracts, bargains, sales, agreements, conveyances, and leases, which shall be made by such person or persons as aforesaid, shall be good and effectual in the law, to all intents and purposes, not only to convey and pass the estate and interest of the person or persons conveying, but also to convey and pass all right, title, estate, and interest, use, property, claim, and demand whatever, of their several cestuique trusts aforesaid, and all persons claiming or to claim by, from, or under them, any

law, statute, or usage, or any other matter or thing whatsoever, to the contrary thereof in any ways notwithstanding; and all bodies politic, corporate, or collegiate, aggregate or sole, and all feoffees in trust, executors, administrators, husbands, guardians, committees, trustees, and all other persons whatsoever, shall be and are hereby indemnified for what they shall do by virtue of and in pursuance of this act.

Provided always, and be it further enacted, That all sums of money which are to be paid for the purchase of any lands or buildings as aforesaid, to any bodies politic, corporate, or collegiate, aggregate, or sole, or to any feoffees in trust, executors, administrators, husbands, guardians, committees, or other trustees whatsoever, for and on behalf of any infant, lunatic, idiot, feme covert, or cestuique trust, or to any person or persons whose lands or buildings are limited in settlement, shall (in case the same exceed the sum of twenty pounds) be laid out as soon as conveniently may be, in the purchase of other lands, tenements, and hereditaments, in fee simple, and conveyed to or to the use of such bodies politic, corporate, or collegiate, or such persons respectively, and subject to such uses, trusts, limitations, remainders, and contingencies, as the lands or buildings for or in respect whereof such purchase money shall be so paid as aforesaid, were limited, settled, and assured, at the time such purchase was made, or so many of such uses as shall be then existing and capable of taking effect; the expence of such purchases and settlements to be charged on the poor's rate of the parish, or on the rates or funds collected by and for the use of such united parishes by virtue of this act, and to be allowed in the accounts thereof.

And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the persons appointed to the management of the poor in any parish or united parishes, or any two of them, to contract in the manner specified in the form No. in the said schedule, with the lord or lady of the manor, with the consent of the major part in number and value of the persons having an interest in any wastes, commons, or uncultivated lands in such parish, for the inclosure of such part of the said wastes, commons, or uncultivated lands, as may be deemed necessary for the better accommodation of or supply of wholesome food to the poor at such schools of industry as aforesaid, or for the purpose of building upon, or occupying, cultivating, or improving the same, for the use and benefit of such schools, and the poor persons within the parish where the same shall be, or the parishes united therewith.

And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the persons appointed to the management of the poor, in any parish or parishes, or any two or more of them, with the consent and approbation of the visitors of the district, to contract and agree with any person or persons for erecting, building, and finishing the whole or any part of the school or schools of industry intended to be built or erected, or for altering, repairing, or finishing, or fitting up and furnishing, from time to time, such schools of industry, or any tenements or buildings purchased or taken therewith, or at any time thereafter belonging thereto; and all payments of the monies due upon such contracts, agreements, or purchases, may be made to the person or persons entitled to receive the same by virtue of this act, in the manner directed by this act in respect of any payments to be made for materials or ne-

cessaries furnished to the use of the poor at any such school or schools of industry, as aforesaid.

And in order to provide for the more effectual superintendence of the said schools of industry, and of the said poor, as well in districts where schools of industry shall be established, as in other districts or places; Be it further enacted, That whenever the visitors acting for any district appointed under the authority of this act, or a sufficient number of such visitors, shall offer to the justices assembled at the quarter sessions for such county, to execute the office of guardian of the poor for such district by rotation, according to the rules prescribed in the schedule hereunto annexed, it shall be lawful for the said justices to appoint any three or more such visitors to such office of guardian of the poor, for such district, for the space of one whole year, from the first day of holding the quarter sessions where such appointment shall be made; and the visitors so appointed, or any two of them, shall and may execute the office of guardian of the poor, and shall be and are hereby vested with all and every the powers given to guardians of the poor, elected to the said office by virtue of this act; any two of whom shall be capable to do any act belonging to the office of guardian of the poor by this act.

And in order that the regulations of this act may be more effectually carried into execution by the election of one or more guardians of the poor, in any county, when the visitors within their respective districts shall not have accepted, or cannot effectually execute the office of such guardian, or where no visitors shall act as guardian in any district or districts; Be it further enacted, That the justices acting in and for any county, and assembled at any quarter sessions of the peace to be holden for such county, shall take into their consideration the number of parishes in, and the extent and local circumstances of such county, together with the duties of the office of the guardian of the poor, and if it shall appear to the said justices to be expedient to elect one or more guardians of the poor of such county, it shall be lawful for the said justices to make order therein, according to the directions contained in No. of the schedule hereunto annexed, and if, in their opinion one person cannot effectually execute, in such county, all the duties required of guardians of the poor in and by this act, the said justices may, and they are hereby required to determine how many of such guardians of the poor are necessary for such county; and in such case to divide such county into as many convenient divisions, consisting of parishes, or united parishes lying contiguous to each other, as such justices shall deem necessary, and to order one guardian to be elected for each such division.

Provided always, and be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the justices acting in and for any county assembled at any subsequent general or quarter sessions of the peace, from time to time, to take into consideration the several particulars before mentioned, and at their discretion appoint visitors, who shall offer to execute the office of guardian in any district or districts, of such county, in the manner before directed, or in their discretion to alter the number of guardians to be elected, or the extent and arrangement of all or any of the divisions appointed as before directed to such guardians respectively; and such justices are thereupon hereby required to make such new division

of such county, as to them shall seem expedient; pursuing the regulations hereinbefore directed; which appointment of visitors to the office of guardian, in any district or districts, or alteration of the number of guardians to be elected for any county, or the extent or arrangement of the divisions of the said county, shall take effect on the next election, which shall be made on any vacancy which shall thereafter happen in the said county, of the office of the guardian of the poor, where only one shall have been elected for such county, and where more than one shall have been elected, then the same shall take effect on the next general election of guardians which shall be made after the expiration of the several offices of guardians for the said county.

And be it further enacted, That all elections of guardians of the poor to be made by virtue of this act, shall be by ballot by the acting visitors of the several districts within the county for which such election shall be made, and resident within the same, of the major part of them who shall be assembled in pursuance of any order of justices, as herein is mentioned.

And be it further enacted, That no person shall be elected to serve the office of a guardian of the poor, in any county, or for any district of a county, unless at the time of such election he shall be duly qualified to be an elector of a guardian of the poor in the same county or district, according to the provisions of this act before-mentioned; or shall have an estate in lands, tenements, or hereditaments, within such county, of the clear annual value of one hundred pounds, or shall be the heir apparent of a person having an estate therein of the clear annual value of two hundred pounds.

Provided always, and be it further enacted, That if at any such election, no person, duly qualified as aforesaid, shall offer himself as a candidate for the said office of guardian of the poor, it shall be lawful for the electors of any such county or division, to elect into the office of guardian of the poor, any person resident in such county, and having, or being the heir apparent of any person having, an estate of the value hereinbefore required, in any other county in that part of Great Britain called England.

And be it further enacted, That every guardian of the poor, before he enter upon the execution of his office, shall take the following oath, which the justices of the county for which he shall be elected guardian of the poor, or any two or more of them that shall be present at such his election, are hereby required to administer:

“ I do swear, That I will truly, faithfully, and impartially, according to the best of my abilities, execute and perform all and every the duties, trusts, powers, and authorities, required of and vested in me as a guardian of the poor, by virtue of an act of parliament intituled, An act for amending and enforcing the laws for the relief, instruction, and employment of the poor.

“ So help me God.”

And be it further enacted, That every guardian of the poor elected under this act, shall from time to time, and once at least in each year, transmit to one of the principal clerks of his majesty's most honourable privy council, copies of all representations and reports made by or to him from time to time, and of all papers, relating to the execution of this act; together with a general abstract of all matters

contained in such representations, reports, and papers, made out and arranged in the form No. in the schedule to this act annexed.

And be it further enacted, That a general abstract shall once in each year be made out under the direction of His Majesty's most honourable privy council, in order that the same may be inspected by parliament; and that the same shall, within one month after January in each year, if parliament shall be then sitting, and if Parliament shall not be then sitting, within twenty days after the first day of the then next session of parliament, be laid before the two houses of parliament.

And be it further enacted, That the property of and in all and in every the goods, chattels, furniture, provisions, cloaths, linen, and wearing apparel, tools, utensils, materials and things whatsoever provided, and of all monies raised from time to time, for the use or relief of the poor of any parish or united parishes, and also all securities given by any person appointed to any office of trust under this act, or by any other person in respect of the property aforesaid, shall be deemed to be vested in the guardian or guardians of the poor for the time being, within which such parish or united parishes shall be situate for the time being, and his and their successors, for the purposes of this act; and the said guardian or guardians is and are hereby empowered and authorized, in his and their own name or names, to bring or cause to be brought any action or actions, or to prefer or order the preferring of any bill or bills of indictment, in any matters or things relating to such property, monies, or securities; and in which actions or indictments, the property, where necessary, shall be laid to be the property of the guardian or guardians bringing such action, or preferring such indictment.

And be it further enacted, That no action which shall be brought by the said guardian or guardians of the poor, by virtue of this act, shall abate or be discontinued by reason of the death or removal of such guardian or guardians; but the guardian or guardians of the poor for the time being, shall be deemed the plaintiff in such action.

And be it further enacted, That any inhabitant, although rated and paying the rates or assessments for the relief of the poor of the parish where he or she doth inhabit, and also all and every person or persons receiving relief or employment from such parish by virtue of this act, shall, upon any trial, hearing, examination, or otherwise, in or concerning the execution of this act, be deemed competent to be a witness or witnesses; any law, usage, or custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the officiating clergyman or clergymen of every parish, or united parishes, where a school or schools of industry shall be established by virtue of this act, at all times in the day time, to inspect such school or schools of industry, and to examine into the state and condition of the poor, and their employment and treatment therein, and the food, if any, provided for such poor persons therein, and the state and condition of such school or schools; and also from time to time to visit all sick, infirm, and aged persons receiving any allowance from the parochial fund of the parish or united parishes of such clergyman or clergymen; and if upon any such inspection such clergyman or clergymen

shall find any cause of complaint; that then and in such case such clergyman or clergymen shall certify such causes of complaint to the visitors of the district in rotation; and such visitors, or the major part of them, may cause any person appointed to the management of the poor, or any treasurer or overseer of the poor of any parish in their district, or the treasurer of any parochial fund against whom any complaint shall be made, to come before such visitors, or the major part of them; and such visitors, or the major part of them, are hereby authorized, on enquiry had therein, to make such orders for the removing any cause of complaint contained in such certificate as aforesaid, as to them shall seem meet; and all the parties concerned shall abide by and perform such orders as shall be so made by the said visitors, or the major part of them; or if such visitors, or the major part of them, shall think fit, it shall be lawful for them to refer such cause of complaint to the justices of the peace in their district, who, or any two of them, may hear the same, and make such order thereon as to them shall seem meet.

And be it further enacted, That if any person appointed to the management of the poor, or in anyway concerned or employed in the care, employment, management, or support of the poor, by virtue of this act, or entrusted therewith, shall wilfully embezzle, misapply, or divert any money, or shall purloin, embezzle, or damage any of the materials, implements of work, utensils, goods, chattels, cloathing, provisions, or other things provided for the use or employment of the poor; or if any such treasurer or person aforesaid, or any other person, shall neglect or refuse to obey, or shall wilfully disobey any order made by any justice or justices by virtue of this act, or the order or orders of any other person or persons having authority by this act to make such order or orders; every person so offending, and being convicted thereof before any two justices of the peace in the district, shall be discharged from his or her office or employment, and rendered incapable of holding the same, or any office of profit or employment under this act, and shall also forfeit and pay for every such offence a sum not exceeding fifty pounds nor less than five pounds, and also the full value of any money, materials, implements of work, utensils, goods, chattels, cloathing, provisions, or other things, which shall be so embezzled, misapplied, diverted, purloined, or damaged as aforesaid, and all other damage occasioned by any such neglect, refusal, or disobedience as aforesaid, to any person or persons whatever; to be levied of the goods and chattels of the person or persons so offending, by warrant of any two justices of the peace in the same district, in such manner as other penalties may be levied before justices under this act.

And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the person or persons appointed to the management of the poor, or of any house of industry in any parish or parishes, or in any township or townships, hundred or hundreds, or places incorporated by any act or acts of parliament, by whatsoever name or names such person or persons shall be distinguished, to establish a school or schools of industry under this act, and to pursue the regulations herein contained for the management of the poor therein; any thing in the said acts, or any of them, contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

Provided always, and be it further enacted, That where any workhouse or workhouses shall have been erected under or by virtue of an act passed in the ninth year of the reign of King George the first, intituled, "An act for amending the laws relating to the settlement, employment and relief of the poor," it shall be lawful for the persons appointed under this act to the management of the poor in any parish or united parishes where such workhouse or workhouses are erected, to convert such workhouse or workhouses in such parish or parishes into a school or schools of industry under this act, and to use the same for the several purposes of this act; subject to the rules, conditions, restrictions and provisions herein contained.

And be it further enacted, That the justices acting in and for each county shall, within a convenient time after the passing of this act, make and settle a table of the fees which shall be taken by the clerks of justices in each county, for their trouble, in any matters relating to the execution of this act; which table of fees shall be made and settled in the manner directed by an act made and passed in the twenty-sixth year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the second, intituled, "An act for the settling and ascertaining the fees to be taken by clerks to justices of the peace;" and that all powers, provisions, articles, clauses, penalties and forfeitures, and application of forfeitures, and all other matters in the said act contained, shall be of full force and effect with relation to the fees to be taken under this act, as fully to all intents and purposes as if the same had severally and respectively been re-enacted in this act.

Provided always, and be it further enacted, That no hundred, town, district, or parish incorporated by any act or acts of Parliament for the relief or maintenance and employment of the poor, nor any parish or parishes where any house of industry, workhouse, or other house for the keeping, maintaining, or employing the poor, shall have been established under the authority of any act of Parliament specially passed for that purpose, or under the authority of an act passed in the twenty-second year of the reign of his present Majesty, intituled, "An act for the better relief and employment of the poor," shall be required, in consequence of this act, to build, purchase, or hire any school or schools of industry, in any case where a school for the instruction and employment of the poor shall form a part of such establishment, under the provisions contained in such act of Parliament, or where such school shall be added to the former establishment in pursuance of this act.

Provided always, That from and after the passing of this act, no contract or agreement for the maintenance or support of the poor kept in such house of industry, workhouse, or other house aforesaid, or for taking the benefit of the work, labour, or service of the poor kept therein, shall be made or executed, or shall be valid or effectual, in any manner whatever, except as hereinafter is particularly provided; any thing contained in any such act or acts of Parliament to the contrary notwithstanding.

Provided also, That every house of industry, workhouse, or other house aforesaid, established under any of the acts before-mentioned, shall, within any district or districts of a county for which visitors are appointed, be subject to visitation and superintendence in all

matters and things in which any jurisdiction is hereby given to any person or persons whatever as fully and effectually as if such house of industry, workhouse, or other house had been established under and by virtue of this act.

Provided also, That no parish or parishes to be united by virtue of this act, shall contract or agree with any person or persons for the maintaining or employing of any poor person or persons, in any house or houses built, purchased, or hired, or in any school of industry established in pursuance of this act, except as hereinafter is particularly provided; and that every contract and agreement entered into contrary to the provisions of this act shall be void to all intents and purposes.

Provided always, and be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for any person or persons appointed to the management of the poor of any parish or united parishes, or of any workhouse or house of industry, or other house used for the employment of the poor established under the authority of any act of parliament passed for that purpose, or under the authority of the said act of the twenty-second year of the reign of His present Majesty, to make any contract with any other person or persons, not having or exercising any employment or authority relating to the poor of such parish or united parishes as aforesaid, or to such workhouse, house of industry, or other house used as aforesaid, to provide food or other necessaries for the poor employed in any school or schools of industry, house of industry, workhouse, or other house aforesaid, or to furnish materials for setting the poor to work, at certain prices to be fixed, and paid in money at the periods to be limited for that purpose; so that such contract shall be reduced into writing, and shall express the particular kinds and qualities of such food or other necessaries, and of such materials as aforesaid, and the prices in money of the same respectively, and shall be allowed by any two or more justices of the peace in the district where such school of industry, workhouse, house of industry, or other house used as aforesaid, shall be; and so that the same cloathing, food, necessaries, and materials respectively shall be, and the same are hereby declared to be subject to the strict examination and controul, at all times, of the visitors and guardians of the poor to be appointed in pursuance of this act, and also of the justices of the peace in the said district; any two of which justices on proof before them of any abuse, may annul such contract.

Provided always, and be it further enacted, That no person or persons appointed to the management of the poor of any parish or united parishes, nor any person or persons employed by or under them, nor any other person to whom any jurisdiction or authority is hereby given, in any matters relating to such poor, during the time he or they shall be placed in such office, or shall exercise the same, shall have any share or beneficial interest in any contract or bargain to be made by virtue of this act, or shall furnish, supply, or deliver, upon or for his or their own account, benefit, profit, or advantage, any goods, materials, provisions, or necessaries, to be used for or towards the support, maintenance, or employment of the said poor;

and if any such person or persons shall at any time offend in any of the matters aforelaid, he or they shall, on conviction before any two justices of the peace in the district, forfeit any sum not exceeding fifty pounds nor less than ten pounds, to be levied, by distress and sale of the offender's goods and chattels, in the manner herein directed in other cases of forfeiture; and every contract entered into contrary to the provisions of this act, shall be void to all intents and purposes.

And be it further enacted, That all the laws now in force relating to the poor, shall be and continue in force, except as they are herein expressly altered, or are repugnant to this act, and the regulations and provisions therein contained.

And be it further enacted, That any direction given or provision made by this act; in any matter respecting any county, shall be construed to extend to the several ridings of the county of York, and to the several divisions of the county of Lincoln, and also to every city, borough, and town, being a county of itself, within that part of Great Britain called England, in like manner as to any county at large, and as fully and effectually as if the said directions and provisions had been expressly applied to the said ridings and divisions, and to the said cities, boroughs, and towns, being counties of themselves respectively; and all magistrates and justices of such ridings or divisions, or of such cities, boroughs, or towns respectively, shall have, and be entitled to exercise, within their respective jurisdictions, all the powers and authorities given by this act to justices of or in any county; and that they and all other officers exercising in such ridings or divisions, or in such cities, boroughs, or towns, the like functions with justices, or with any other officers or persons of any description or denomination in this act mentioned, are severally and respectively hereby required to execute all the duties required by this act of justices, or such other officers or persons of any county in all matters relating to the execution of this act, or the regulations and provisions thereof; and that every city, borough, town corporate, cinque port, and liberty, not being a county of itself, but having its own magistrates exercising the functions of justices within their respective jurisdictions, shall, in all things touching this act, be deemed and taken to be a separate district of the county within which the same is situated, without any special appointment by the justices at quarter sessions for that purpose; and all such magistrates and justices of such cities, boroughs, towns corporate, cinque ports, and liberties respectively shall have, within their respective jurisdictions, all the powers and authorities of, and they are hereby required to perform and execute all the duties required in and by this act of justices in any district appointed under this act, in all matters relating to this act; and shall, from time to time, as required under this act, hold such petty sessions in every such city, borough, town corporate, cinque port, or liberty, and do all such things relating to this act, as are required of justices in the district, or at the petty sessions to be holden under this act in the district of any county appointed in pursuance of this act; and that any direction or provision of this act, in any matter or thing respecting any parish or united parishes, or in any way relating to the management of the poor, or to any school of industry, shall be construed to apply to every township or place

separately supporting its own poor, in like manner as to any parish, and as fully, as if the said directions and provisions had severally and respectively been expressly applied to townships and places separately supporting their own poor.

And be it further enacted, That all pecuniary penalties and forfeitures imposed by this act, and directed to be recovered in His Majesty's courts at Westminster, shall be sued for by action of debt, bill, plaint, or information, in which no essoin, privilege, protection, wager of law, nor more than one imparlance, shall be allowed; and that one moiety of the said penalties shall go to the poor of the parish in which the person offending resided at the time of the offence committed, and the other moiety thereof, with full costs of suit, to the person who shall inform or sue for the same; and that all other pecuniary penalties, not recoverable in manner aforesaid, shall be recovered before one or more justice or justices of the peace in the district where the offence shall be committed, or such justice or justices as shall be specially directed by this act; and such justice or justices before whom complaint of any such offence shall be made, shall summon the party or parties accused, and upon proof of the offence, on oath or solemn affirmation, or by confession of the party accused before such justice or justices, shall order the penalty or penalties, forfeiture or forfeitures incurred, in default of payment thereof, to be levied by distress and sale of the goods and chattels of the person or persons convicted in any county, by warrant under the hands and seals of such justice or justices (such warrant being duly indorsed for execution, if the same shall be executed in any county out of the jurisdiction of the justice or justices granting the same) together with the costs and charges of such distress and sale, such costs and charges to be ascertained by such justice or justices, rendering the overplus (if any) on demand, after deducting the said costs and charges, to the person or persons convicted; and the money arising from the said last-mentioned penalties and forfeitures, shall go to the poor of the parish in which the person convicted resided at the time of the offence committed; and in case no sufficient distress shall be found, then the said person or persons so convicted, shall and may, by like warrant, be apprehended and committed to the common gaol of and for the county wherein such penalty or forfeiture shall be incurred, there to remain, without bail or mainprize, for such time as such justice or justices respectively shall direct, not exceeding six calendar months, unless he, she, or they shall sooner pay such penalty or penalties, forfeiture or forfeitures, and all charges attending the same (such charges to be ascertained by any such justice or justices respectively as aforesaid;) and such penalties and forfeitures so recovered as aforesaid, and all other penalties and forfeitures, and parts of penalties or forfeitures directed by this act to go to the use of the said poor, shall be paid to the overseers of the poor of the parish, within which such offence shall have been committed, or one of them, and the said overseers are hereby authorized and required to receive and apply the same to the use of such parish, in like manner as the money raised for the relief of the poor in such parish may be applied.

And be it further enacted, That every information exhibited before any justice or justices of the peace, against any person or persons,

for any offence or offences against this act, or any thing relating thereto, may be in the form of words, or to the effect directed in the schedule to this act annexed, and marked No. *mutatis mutandis*; and that every conviction made under this act, may be made in the form of words, or to the effect contained in No. in the schedule annexed to this act, *mutatis mutandis*.

And be it further enacted, That no notice, summons, order, agreement, rate, assessment, conviction, warrant, distress, or other proceeding under this act, shall be quashed, vacated, or made or deemed void, for want of form only, or be removed or removeable by *Certiorari* or otherwise, into any superior court; nor, in case of any irregularity in any distress, or any sale thereupon, or proceeding therein, shall any of the parties concerned therein be deemed a trespasser or trespassers *ab initio*; but the person or persons aggrieved thereby, shall and may recover satisfaction for the special damages only, in an action upon the case, if no sufficient tender of amends shall have been made to him, and not otherwise.

Provided always, and be it further enacted, that if any person shall think himself or herself aggrieved by any thing done in pursuance of this act, and for which a power of appeal to the general or quarter sessions is expressly given by this act, such person may appeal to such general or quarter sessions of the peace, as shall be specially directed by this act to be holden for the county wherein the cause of appeal shall arise; or where no such special direction shall be given, then to any general or quarter sessions held for the said county within four calendar months after the cause of appeal shall have arisen; such appellant first giving eight days notice at least, in writing, of his or her intention to bring such appeal, and of the matter thereof, to the person or persons appointed to the management of the poor of the parish, or united parishes, where the cause of appeal shall have arisen, and within four days after such notice, entering into a recognizance before some justice of the peace in the district, with two sufficient sureties, conditioned to try such appeal, and abide the order of, and pay the costs which shall be awarded by such sessions; and the court upon due proof of such notice and recognizance, shall hear and finally determine the matter of every such appeal, in a summary way, and make such order, and award such costs to the party appealing or appealed against, as such court shall think proper, and such determination shall be final, binding, and conclusive to all intents and purposes, and shall not be removed into any other court: Provided always, that if fourteen days shall have not elapsed after the cause of complaint shall have arisen, and the first day of the general or quarter sessions where such appeal shall be specially directed to be made, the said court may, if they think proper, adjourn the said appeal to the then next general or quarter sessions, at which sessions the court shall proceed peremptorily to hear and determine the same.

And be it further enacted, That if any person or persons, upon examination upon oath or affirmation, before any person or persons authorized by this act to administer such oath or affirmation, shall wilfully and corruptly swear, affirm, or alledge any matter or thing which shall be false or untrue, every such person or persons so of-

fending, and being thereof duly convicted, shall be, and is and are hereby declared to be subject and liable to such pains and penalties as by any law now in force persons convicted of wilful and corrupt perjury are subject and liable to.

And be it further enacted, That no receipt hereby required to be given for or upon the payment of money applicable to any the purposes of this act, nor any agreement, instrument, writing, or other matter or thing set forth in the schedule to this act annexed, or required to be made or executed by this act, except deeds or instruments passing an interest in lands, tenements, or hereditaments, shall be liable to any stamp duty.

And be it further enacted, That the forms of proceedings relative to the several matters contained in this act, which are set forth and expressed in the schedule hereunto annexed, shall and may be used on all occasions, with such additions and variations only as may be necessary to adapt them to the particular exigencies of each case; and that no objection shall be made, or advantage taken for want of form in any such proceedings, by any person or persons whatever.

And be it further enacted, That this act, as to all matters and things therein contained (except such provisions and regulations where a particular commencement is especially provided and appointed) shall commence and take place upon the tenth day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-seven.

And be it further enacted, That no action or suit shall be commenced or brought against any person or persons, for any thing done in pursuance of this act, or any of the powers hereby given or in any-wise relating thereto, until twenty-one days notice thereof, in writing, shall have been given to the person or persons appointed to the management of the poor of the parish or united parishes where the cause thereof shall have arisen, and to the person or persons against whom the same shall be prosecuted; nor after satisfaction or tender of amends shall have been made, nor after six calendar months from the time the cause thereof shall have arisen shall be expired; and every such action or suit shall be laid or brought in the county wherein the cause of action shall have arisen, and not elsewhere; and the defendant or defendants in such action or suit may and shall plead the general issue, and give this act, and the special matter, in evidence in any trial to be had thereupon; and if it shall appear to be done in pursuance of this act, or that such action or suit shall be brought before such notice thereof shall have been given as aforesaid, or after the time hereinbefore limited for bringing the same, or after satisfaction, or tender of amends, shall have been made, or shall be brought in any other county than as aforesaid, then the jury shall find for the defendant or defendants; and upon such verdict, or if the plaintiff or plaintiffs shall be nonsuited therein, or shall discontinue his, her, or their said action or suit after the defendant or defendants shall have appeared, or if upon demurrer judgment shall be given against the plaintiff or plaintiffs, such defendant or defendants shall and may recover treble costs, and have and be entitled to the like remedy for the same, as any defendant or defendants hath or have for costs of suit in other cases by law.

FINIS.

